Pension to widows of freedom fighters

†1730. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for providing pension to the widows of freedom fighters; if so, the rules thereof;

(b) whether such pension is divided equally between the widows in case a freedom fighter had two;

(c) whether the surviving widow gets full pension is case of death of one of the two widows;

(d) if so, the number of such cases pending with Government and since when; and

(e) by when such pending cases would be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, widow of a deceased freedom fighter, who was in receipt of freedom fighters' pension, is entitled to family pension if she has not since remarried. In case the freedom fighter had communicated to the Ministry of Home Affairs the nomination of more than one legally wedded wives as dependents, the family pension admissible to one dependent widow would be shared by them equally. Such widows would not be treated as separate entities for grant of family pension under the Scheme.

(d) As per available records, no such case is pending.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in visa racket cases

1731. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been an increase in the visa racket cases in the country;

(b) the details of such cases reported in the last three years; State-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken to curb such activities and to protect the victims of the visa rackets who are facing punishment in different countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As per readily available information, the data regarding the cases of forged/fake visas detected at the major International Airports during the last three years is as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Airports	2004	2005	2006
Delhi	122	174	119
Mumbai	62	126	100
Kolkata	0	4	5
Chennai	4	4	14
Amritsar	13	21	22

To ascertain the genuineness of the travel documents including visas and to detect forgeries, the immigration officers at all Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in the country are provided with the specimen copies of the travel documents and visas for comparison. They are also provided with Ultra Violet Lamps/Magnifying glasses to examine the travel documents including visas to detect possible tampering. In addition, Full Page Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines have also been installed at major airports. Above all, officers manning immigration counters at all ICPs are given special training for detection of forged/fake travel documents.

Continuing extremist activities

1732. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that secessionist outfits like ULFA have been continuing their extremist activities unabated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an FCI officer was kidnapped by the outfit and killed;

(c) whether Government have taken comprehensive measures to end the activities of such outfits; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) It is a fact that ULFA and certain other groups have continued to indulge in violence and terrorist activities.

(b) Dr. P. C. Ram, Executive Director, Food Corporation of India, Guwahati was abducted by United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants on 17.4.2007 at Guwahati. On the night of 11-12 July 2007, an encounter took place between ULFA militants and police after information of ULFA militants being holed up in Borka Panitema village under Police Station Kamalpur, in district Kamrup had been received. After the encounter when the premises were searched, three bodies were found along with some weapons. One of these was found to be that of Dr. Ram while the other two were those of ULFA militants.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has been maintaining close and continuous coordination with the State Government and supplementing their efforts on a